

**Senior Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Town Hall, Old Town Road
10:30 a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Dorothy Graham, Linda Spak, Sandra Kelly, Betsy Theve, and Mimi Leveille. Marguerite Donnelly, Janet Merritt and Betsey DeMaggio were absent. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approve Minutes of May 18, 2011 Meeting

Ms. Theve moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2011. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Pierce, Spak, Theve, Graham, Kelly) 0 Nays 1 Abstain (Leveille)
3 Absent (DeMaggio, Donnelly, Merritt)

Review Open Meetings Seminar

Ms. Pierce reviewed topics discussed at the open meetings seminar held by the Town, specifically highlighting:

- Procedures to amend the agenda
- Eliminating the generic New Business item on the agenda
- Allowable use of email (scheduling a meeting and disseminating information only with no responses allowed)
- Subcommittees fall under the open meeting guidelines and their meetings must be posted and recorded with minutes.

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Merritt's conversation with the Block Island Times

Ms. Kelly reported that the Block Island Times was willing to rename the "Comments" area of their website to "Discussion/BI Bulletin." She stated that she felt the site did not meet the Community Bulletin Board needs.

Ms. Pierce conversation with Block Island Times re: Last month's article not in the paper

Ms. Pierce explained that the coverage of the Senior Advisory Committee's May meeting was not printed in the paper and only briefly posted on their website. She reported that she discussed her disappointment with the paper's owner and editor. She pointed out that the majority of the readers who have interest in the committees' activities would be more inclined to read the hard copy, not the web version.

**Follow up on "our" website and if we vote to go ahead with this activity we will need:
Advertising**

Date to Initiate

Monies required

What it will be know as

Following discussion, Ms. Spak made a motion to institute the Block Island Bulletin Board through Google Groups for a three month trial period and ask Ms. Merritt and Ms. Kelly to administer the program, with review in September. Ms. Theve seconded the motion and it carried.

6 Ayes (Pierce, Spak, Theve, Graham, Kelly, Leveille) 0 Nays
3 Absent (DeMaggio, Donnelly, Merritt)

Discussion ensued regarding the payment of a stipend for the administration of the Bulletin Board. It was decided to take no action at this time and reevaluate in September.

Ms. Kelly distributed an informational letter describing the Bulletin Board and giving sign-up instructions. She will edit the letter and the program will be initiated right away. The Committee agreed to spread the word about the Bulletin Board through word of mouth at this time.

The Committee warmly thanked Ms. Kelly and Ms. Merritt for their extensive and thorough work on the project.

Review senior tax exemption ordinance for potential changes

Ms. Kelly presented a packet of the correspondence pertaining to the previous change to the senior tax exemption ordinance increasing income levels eligible for exemption. The Committee decided to gather information regarding current income levels of Block Island seniors and reconsider the ordinance once the information was in hand.

Update on Activities:

Swimming Pool – Ladder coming?

Ms. Spak reported that Town Manager Dodge will contact Meredith McAloon of the Neptune this week regarding the installation of a donated ladder.

FISH

Ms. Pierce reported that she was still looking for another coordinator to head up FISH.

Soup Group

Ms. Pierce reported that Soup Group was running well and they have instituted door prizes at each lunch.

Feedback

Driver's refresher course

Ms. Leveille reported that there were about 11 participants at the May driver's refresher course and it went well. Receipts for expenses were submitted for reimbursement.

Ms. Spak left the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Garden Tour of Stonington

Ms. Pierce reported that the Stonington Garden Tour was a great trip, with a full van, plus 2 extra people who drove separately. It was noted that Recreation Director Closter did a great job.

Correspondence

An article from AARP titled "Home Sweet Home" regarding community sponsored membership for home services was reviewed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Next Meeting – July 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Theve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Levielle seconded with all in favor.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: July 19, 2011